

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 953

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to commemorate April 2018 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges; it affects individuals differently, mildly affecting some and significantly disabling others; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorders are the fastest growing severe developmental disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every sixty-eight children, including one out of every forty-two boys, resulting in over 22,000 Tennesseans under age eighteen being affected; and

WHEREAS, autism affects not only the diagnosed individual, but the entire family and community at large; and

WHEREAS, although a cure for autism has not been found, accurate, early diagnosis and interventions along with the use of empirically sound treatment options are the keys to helping individuals with autism reach their greatest potential; and

WHEREAS, during Autism Awareness Month, we recognize those in our State affected by autism, promote autism awareness and acceptance, and draw attention to the tens of thousands of individuals facing an autism diagnosis each year; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with our fellow citizens who are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families and caregivers, and public healthcare professionals across our State as they commemorate April 2018 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.